INFORMERS REV. MISC

# Robinson robbery plot told

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By Betty Washington

Two Chicago policemen hired out as professional killers to raise money to buy dynamite and other equipment for a planned $1 million Loop robbery, the government has charged.

Assistant U.S. Atty. Howard M. Hoffmann said that former Sgt. Stanley B. Robinson, 36, and suspended burglary Detective William H. Tolliver, 46, also extorted money from narcotics distributors to put in their Loop robbery kitty.

Hoffmann indicated that the robbery target was either a bank or an armored money truck.

Hoffman made the charges in the government's opening statement at the jury trial of Robinson, Tolliver and convicted narcotics dealer William Taylor before U.S. District Judge Philip W. Tone.

**THE THREE ARE** charged with violating the civil rights of two men, Jeff Beard, 22, and Verdell Smith, 41, by killing them.

Hoffman also made new disclosures on how Robinson allegedly killed Beard after a 10-minute chase on foot across Interstate 80 in Gary and how Tolliver allegedly used a rifle to kill Smith on the Dan Ryan Expressway at 59th St. in moving traffic.

**ROBINSON'S** defense attorney, Edward Genson, wove the Watergate bugging scandal into his opening statement.

Genson said that papers from former White House counsel John Dean mentioned White House plans to investigate subversive groups, including the Black Panthers.

Genson added that William O'Neil was a "preferred" FBI informer and had provided information to the FBI that led state's attorney's police to make an ill-fated raid on a Black Panther apartment at 2337 W. Monroe on Dec. 4, 1969. Two Panther leaders were slain in the raid.

**GENSON ALSO** said that the FBI agent to whom O'Neil had been reporting, Roy Mitchell, was "the signatory" on papers that led state's attorney's police to make the raid.

This was the first time that the FBI had been linked to advance plans for the raid, which was designed to seize a cache of illegal guns in the Panther apartment.

Former State's Atty. Edward V. Hanrahan and 13 other law enforcement officials were indicted by the county grand jury for obstruction of justice in the uproar after the raid. The 14 were acquitted in a bench trial by Criminal Court Judge Philip Romiti.

**HOFFMANN** also disclosed for the first time how O'Neil said Beard was killed by Robinson and Smith by Tolliver.

Hoffman said Robinson arrested and handcuffed Beard in a South Side pool hall and then drove Beard to Gary, with O'Neil accompanying him.

The prosecutor said that Robinson removed Beard's handcuffs after they halted on Interstate 80 in Gary and that Beard was not frightened because he thought Robinson was only trying to enlist him as a dope peddler.

Once Robinson made it clear he planned to kill eBard, Hoffmann said, Beard bolted and Robinson chased after him in the dark on foot. The two crossed Interstate 80's lanes during a 10-minute chase that ended when Robinson seized Beard, the prosecutor said.

O'Neil said that he saw a flash of light and heard a shot, Hoffmann said, and after a short time Robinson returned to the car and told O'Neil to follow him.

Hoffmann said O'Neil told investigators that the two found Beard dead and picked his body up and threw it over a fence into a field.

**THE PROSECUTOR** added that O'Neil said that Robinson had told him his gun jammed after the first shot and that he then used his pistol as a bludgeon.

Hoffmann also said that Robinson shoved Beard's face into the mud to suffocate him and then stabbed Beard.

The prosecutor said that the third defendant, Taylor, described as a West Side narcotics distributor, had hired Robinson to kill Beard after he suspected Beard was withholding money from narcotics sales and of using some of Taylor's narcotics himself.

**THE PROSECUTOR** also said that Smith, a heroin addict with a long police record, was mistakenly killed by Tolliver.

Hoffman said that Robinson and Tolliver had hired out to kill Charles McFarren, Smith's cousin and the operator of a tavern near 102d St. and Michigan.

Smith was riding in McFarren's car the night he was allegedly slain by Tolliver, whom Hoffmann said was seated in the rear seat of a car

Ed, there appears to be nothing Skolnick won't exploit. Now a 75-year-old attorney is disbarred for "encouraging" him! Very glad to get the clip on Wm O'Neil is FBI informer and saying he was informer in Panther raid. I have been collecting the stories of informers for a book I haven t been able to get to and have turned over to a friend who will write most of it. Those two Chicops justify the peithet, murderous pigs...Hope you get flush enough tt get a regular phone before you go for the one that transmits xeroxes. Of the three users, one, Ft. Detrick, is close enpugh-three miles. The others farthur away. One isn't even a Frederick exchange. So much for Ma Bell's accuracy. They must be a great invention. Something worth getting rich to have! Thanks and best, HW 6/12/73

driven by Robinson and also containing O'Neil.

Hoffmann said that O'Neil said that just before Tolliver pulled the trigger of a .30 caliber rifle as the three pulled alongside the car containing Smith, Tolliver said:

"We've waited long enough to collect for this dude."

The prosecutor said that it was only when Robinson and Tolliver went to collect for McFarren's murder that they found out he was still alive and the man who hired them refused to pay off.

**HOFFMANN SAID** they had been hired by a South Side delicatessen owner, who was charged with murder and against whom McFarren was scheduled to testify. Hoffmann did not identify the delicatessen owner.